

# Idaho Café

**Question 1: What did you want to talk about when you decided to attend this summit?** This question provided an opportunity for all participants to share their motivations for attending. Fish and Game and the commissioners appreciated the generous commitment of time made by participants and wanted to know why people felt it worthwhile to attend.

This is what the conversation sounded like.



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## QUESTION 1:

“How can we be more inclusive – so that all Idahoans understand their role in conservation?”

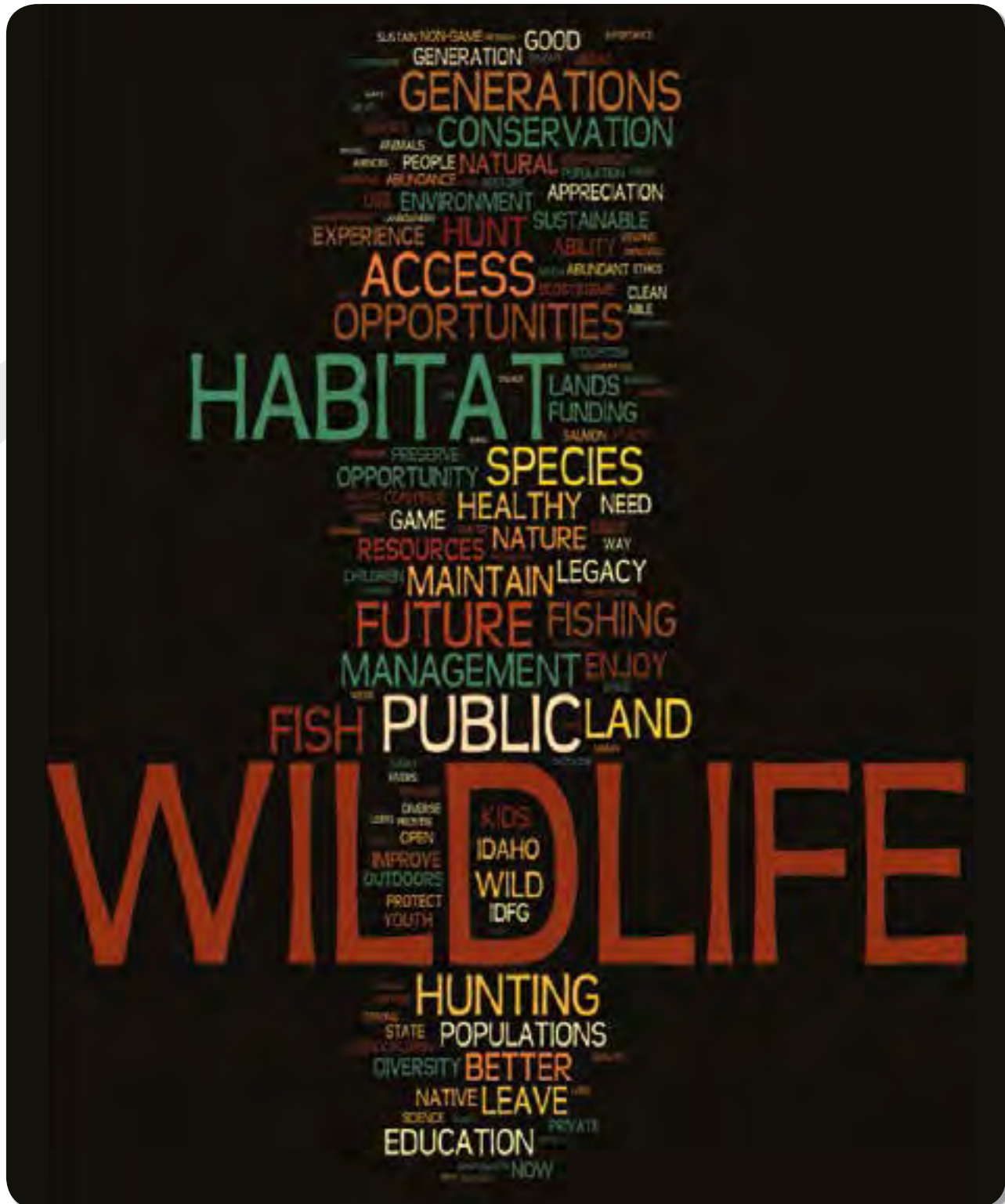
Many participants expressed a desire to discuss issues such as wildlife conservation, preservation of the hunting and fishing heritage, connecting youth to the outdoors and funding. Many were concerned about the status of big game herds in Idaho. And many said that new and additional funding would be key to accomplishing the important tasks.

### Here is some of what was said:

- “Strategies that will improve success rates (hunting, fishing).”
- “What can Fish and Game do to improve operational efficiencies, organization, and image?”
- “Simplify the regulations; they are currently daunting for both fishing and hunting.”
- “Why is the traditional funding plan not working now, and what is needed?”
- “I am concerned about deer and elk herd declines.”
- “Wildlife management decisions need to be based on biology, not on emotions.”
- “Change needs to come from all sides.”
- “Want to talk about the changes to wolf management (2011 vs. 2012) regulations – science-based vs. political.”
- “How do we get sustained income that is not politically driven?”
- “What is the public’s role?”
- “Finding a balance and working together to solve conservation issues.”



**This is what the conversation sounded like.**



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## QUESTION 2:

**B**elow are sample statements of the wildlife legacies people wish to leave for future generations. They are in no particular order, preference or priority.

- “All people who care about wildlife working together.”
- “Salmon return to Idaho and spawn.”
- “Private landowners are engaged in the conservation of land and habitat.”
- “Nature is close to home.”
- “An integration of forest and wildlife management.”
- “Science as an objective management tool that helps reduce the politics in wildlife management.”
- “The ability to feed your family with wildlife.”
- “Diverse and healthy ecosystems dominated by native species that are interconnected.”
- “True wilderness where people can experience silence, serenity, and solitude.”
- “Fish and Game serves all Idahoans and educates them about wildlife.”
- “A strong culture and structure for citizen involvement.”
- “There is a balance between predators and prey, and predators play their natural role.”
- “Effective wildlife management by public agencies, consistent with public interests.”
- “A legacy that is huntable, fishable and watchable, and is treated in an ethical manner, supported by healthy habitats.”
- “Mutual respect between hunters and nonhunters about how to appreciate and sustain wildlife.”
- “A larger and more stable funding model for the future, paid for by all users and enjoyers.”
- “A standard for sportsmen where the hunter gives back.”
- “Clean water and clean air.”
- “Idaho communities that sustain a connection to nature.”



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**Question 3: In order to leave the wildlife legacy that you think is appropriate for the future, who needs to be included in the conversation?** This question invited participants to reflect on who needs to be engaged if we want to accomplish our shared aspirations.

This is what the conversation sounded like.



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## QUESTION 3:

**In response to the question about who to involve, Summit participants were full of suggestions:**

- Hunting and fishing communities.
- Scientists, biologists.
- Non hunting public.
- Idaho Fish and Game.
- Sporting groups.
- Legislators.
- Wildlife advocates, consumptive and nonconsumptive.
- Nonresident and resident license buyers.
- Public and private landowners.
- Tribal governments.
- Both urban and rural stakeholders.
- Farmers and ranchers.
- Everybody who uses state and federal lands for any purpose.
- Land managers that must implement policies which will affect the future.
- Climate sciences professionals.
- Conservationists.
- City planners, parks and recreation staff.
- All citizens with an interest in wildlife and basic knowledge of sound wildlife conservation.
- Political decision makers.
- Big shot enviro's (NGO's) with K street offices in Washington, D.C.
- People who have experience in the wild.
- Educators at all levels.
- Non-profit and non-government organizations.
- The people in the middle.
- Agriculture, timber, logging, mining, hydroelectric power.
- State legislature and politicians (to listen).
- Landowners, government, state, federal, tribal, consumptive sportsmen and nonconsumptive, hikers, bikers, nongame advocates.
- Disinterested people.
- Teachers, moms, youths, nontraditional Fish and Game constituents.
- The only entity not included is NONE.
- Everyone needs to contribute: state, federal, sportsmen, anglers, trappers, wildlife watchers, conservation groups.
- Adjacent states.
- Wildlife watchers.
- Future generations.
- Reasonable people.
- Kids and grandkids.
- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups.
- Artists and film makers.
- Returning veterans.
- Old-timers with historical perspective on what Idaho was and how it has changed.
- Everyone: utilitarian, pluralist, mutualist, distanced.
- Media, not just social media.
- We need hunters, anglers, IDFG, federal agencies, state legislature, Congress, selected NGO groups (The Nature Conservancy, Audubon, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, etc.).
- Keep the Feds out!
- Every interested Idaho resident.
- Average "Joe."
- God - he created it perfectly, in balance and knows all things, ask him.
- Everyone! Federal, state, general public, politicians, NGO's, special interest groups, local businesses involved in outdoor equipment sales, private landowners.
- Wildlife and conservation lobbyists.
- People who are enjoying the fish and wildlife resources but not paying for it.
- Those who care enough to do something about it.
- Sporting goods manufacturers.
- Outdoor tourism industry.
- Outfitters and guides.
- Everyone.
- But... many aren't interested enough.
- The Wildlife Summit is a good start.
- Idahoans should have the ultimate say in the legacy of wildlife in Idaho.

**This is what the conversation sounded like.**





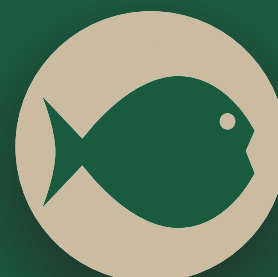
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## QUESTION 4:

**F**rom what Wordle “sounds” like, meetings, education, media, outreach, forums, information, perspectives, involvement, schools, stakeholders, groups, and people are the main elements to ensure a diversity of perspectives and future conversations happen in a way that matters.

### Here is some of what was said:

- “Fish and Game needs to build (rebuild) trust with involved publics.”
- “Be willing to address the tough and controversial issues in open forums.”
- “Use technology to interact with all interested parties: social media, TV.”
- “Relay the sense of urgency to the diverse groups.”
- “Propose a radical change in the model of funding and invite public input (everyone will become a stakeholder to some extent).”
- “Mentor kids to be good stewards of conservation.”
- “Realize that none of us gets 100 percent of what we think we want.”
- “Create a clear understanding of the challenges that wildlife is facing to engage the general public, including young people.”
- “Hold public forums - quarterly? regionally? Mini-versions of this wildlife summit, but addressing more specific issues – perhaps in conjunction w/IDFG commission meetings – or pending legislation discussions.”
- “Train volunteer facilitators to promote civil discussions on controversial topics.”
- “Collaboration works if people feel their views matter. Give ‘room’ to diverse groups working together to make decisions that matter.”



**FISHING**



**HUNTING**



**WATCHING**



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**This is what the conversation sounded like:**



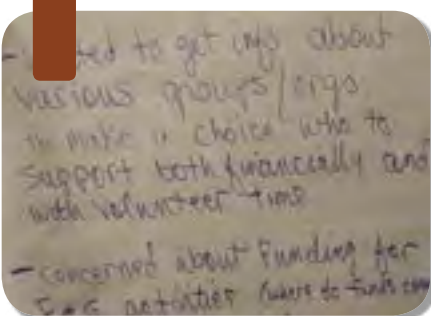
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## QUESTION 5:

Participants said people can do many things right now – individually or collectively – that would make a difference to wildlife, including finding new funding sources, supporting habitat projects, mentoring youth in the outdoors, supporting education programs and public outreach, and preserving the hunting and fishing heritage.

“Fish and Game needs to figure out how to make this dialogue sustainable.”

### Here is some of what was said:



- “Join the organizations that you support and be an active participant.”
- “Broaden the understanding of North American Model.”
- “Utilize social media to connect with ‘younger’ folks.”
- “Become educated and knowledgeable on wildlife issues; then become involved.”
- “Appreciate all values of wildlife – food, ecology, economic, recreation, tourism, etc.”
- “Increase the number of wildlife habitat areas for urban public and others to visit.”
- “Build a new coalition of folks to support wildlife management in Idaho that is broader than hunters and fishermen.
- “Fear complacency in our youth!”
- “Find one small thing you can do and do it.”
- “Respect diversity of points of view with an eye toward finding common ground and finding solutions. Keep an open mind.”
- “Be a voice for conservation and an advocate for fish and wildlife.”
- “Create a different funding source to promote management of all wildlife species.”
- “Take a legislator camping.”
- “Keep the conversation going, especially with the youth.”
- “Continue to talk to each other – collaboratively and respectfully.”



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## QUESTION 5:

